

# ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 25, 2005

2:00 P.M.



## MINUTES

### I. Welcome/Roll Call

The meeting is called to order at 2:00 pm. .

COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT	
		Excused	Unexcused
Eric Reed, Dist. 3, <i>Chairperson</i>	X		
Vacant, Mayor's Appt.			
Olivia Chavez, Dist. 1		X	
Willie Padilla, Dist. 2	X		
Donald J. Seeley, Dist 4, Co-Chairperson	X		
Fred Gromand, Dist. 5	X		
Martin Wagner, Dist. 6	X		
Enriqueta Natividad, Dist. 7	X		
Ernesto Armendariz, Dist. 8			X
Bill Bennett, ADA Coordinator	X		
Martha Macias, ADA Interpreter		X	
Juan Gonzalez, ADA Secretary	X		
Ruby B. Ransom (Mr. Reed's Assistant)	X		
Steve Burman, Human Resources	X		
Sergio Reyes, Traffic Eng. Div.	X		
James W. Peterson, Sun Metro	X		
City Attorney's Office			X
Pat Pound, Governor's Committee	X		
Cindy Counts, Governor's Committee	X		

### Address from the Governor's Committee

Pat Pound gave a presentation about what is going on at the state level. The national disability employment awareness month posters are being signed by the artist. A handout with web resources was handed out. The Governors committee has done a survey of streets and sidewalks. A little over 12,000 Texas cities were surveyed. They got a response from 274 cities, about a 21% response rate. Questions were asked about their ADA coordinators and about sidewalk issues. 61% that answered had ADA coordinators, but only 38 % had adopted grievance procedures for ADA complaints. These numbers are quite low after 15 years. The numbers were higher at one time based on a previous survey. The Governors Committee is writing an article for the Texas Municipal League to try to get the numbers up where they belong. Two Texas cities have lost a lawsuit and a federal complaint over the last two years about sidewalk access. So questions on the survey were asked about street access. 52% have a policy about street access for new road construction and 44% have policies about creating access on existing roadways. There is room for a lot of improvement. Working with the Texas Municipal league, the Governor's committee hopes that cities will understand their responsibilities better than they do. E-mail addresses were obtained for the Cities and with ongoing communication that maybe the cities will hopto. Several cities are doing well and initiating some programs where people know curb cut issues. Excited to point out some of the positives and think that is doing very well. Employment awards will be held in Fort Worth on October 10. Information was passed out on contact information. The Governors Committee web site is getting about 9000 hits a month. Questions were asked about ordinances in other cities were asked. The Governor's committee web site has a large number of ordinances on the site listed by topic.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item F third line should be "they will be asked", instead of "the will be asked."

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as amended for July 28, 2005.

### III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

#### A. Audible Pedestrian Signal status

Paisano and Washington is done except of the handrail. Boll and Alameda are working. Phoenix and Hunter are working. They are working on Lomaland and Gateway now. All the equipment for the 21 intersections is in. The designs are complete for the 21 intersections. About half of the priority 2 and 3 intersections are in TxDot right of way and will be sent for approval. The locations on the city right of way will be constructed first. The Street Department is doing the construction. There was a request for a new signal for Pebble Hills and Lee Trevino.

**B. Sensitivity Training for Council Members.**

Eric Reed met with the Mayor and agreed to postpone the training to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September at 9:00 am and will be for 3 hours. He does not want to take the council members out of City Hall. Could try to do the training inside city hall. Four individuals are needed to be panelists for the council. The Mayor thinks that it is important to have the training.

**C. Subcommittee reports for Goals and Objectives.**

Supportive employment. No report.

Taxi Ordinance. Mayor has been informed and doesn't think that we need an ordinance change. Sun Metro is working on an agreement with the taxi companies to purchase accessible units

Sidewalk Ordinance. No report.

Sensitivity Training. Already discussed. The goal will be to train all city employees that deal with the public.

Transition Plan for the City. Eric Reed presented a document to the mayor called a mayors directive. Because of the form of government the mayor can no longer issue a directive. The council can have the city manager institute the directive. The plan presented to the mayor requires that each department establish an ADA coordinator in their department who has the responsibility of reviewing with the ADA Coordinator what needs to be done in that particular department. All departments will be completed within 6 months, public hearings will be held on the documents, after the public hearing the documents will be readjusted, and presented to council for approval after one year. The document will be reevaluated again at 18 months and then reevaluated every year. The entire document will be in the ADA coordinators office for three years with the updates. All appropriations will be determined based on the need and will be determined by the Financial services department. The City Manager will be briefed on this after Labor Day. A copy of the document will be presented to the committee next meeting.

Put ADA Coordinator under the Mayor/City Manager. Eric Reed has discussed this item with the mayor who could not make a commitment at this time. What was suggested that an Office of Disability Services be developed that will be a line item on the side of the City Manager and would not come under any Deputy City Manager. It is important that the office be independent and function under the City Manager and the City Council. Chicago, Houston, and Austin have this type of plan. The mayor knows that the transition plan does not just address brick and mortar.

Barrier Free Construction. Discussion with the Mayor has said it is a done deal. He had to modify his father's house. We still want to work with the building community to try to establish a fund to remodel houses. There is a similar program called Easy Living Homes in Atlanta. The builders association has been contacted and they are going to allow Don Sealy time to give a presentation. The cost to construct using barrier free design was discussed.

**D. Transition plan for the City of El Paso.**

This has already been discussed.

**E. Discussion and action on five points presented by Desert Adapt to Mayor Cook regarding Sun Metro.**

A copy of the five points that Desert Adapt presented to the mayor was handed out. Desert Adapt is asking the committee to write a letter of support for the items. The points were discussed. A lot of the items are already being done. The last point will be taken care of when the Transition plan is initiated. Mr. Scott gets a report daily on maintenance issues with the busses. Discussion continued on the busses and Sun Metro issues and the five points. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to provide a letter that supports the principal of the document to "make operational wheel chair lifts and safe wheel chair transportation a high priority at Sun Metro."

**E. Formal complaints regarding ADA/Accessibility Compliance.**

No formal complaints. A complaint was called in on Pera and Cebada that the curb ramp caused a person to trip. One was obtained on Byron that the new ramps were not accessible. Texas Roadhouse does not accessible seating. Martin Wagner said that the whole back wing is accessible. The complaint is being investigated. Another complaint was about driveways crossing sidewalks and sidewalk obstructions.

**F. Update on transfer of the Accessibility Coordinator function.**

The position is being transferred to the Financial Services, General Services Department. The position will be on the seventh floor and Martha Macias will be the City Clerks

**G. Plan Reviews**

**1. Public Access Facilities**

None.

**2. Municipal Projects**

The golf course is being reviewed by a RAS. The clubhouse was reviewed by the accessibility office and an independent Registered Accessibility Specialist.

**H. Next Meeting Agenda, Date and Location**

The next meeting will be on September 22, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. in the 8<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There will be a graduation of the next Disabled Volunteer Parking Patrol class at Pebble Hills Regional Command Center on Friday, September 9, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

The curb ramp on demand program is being worked on again because the contracts were finally done.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm

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**Eric Reed, Chairperson**

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**William Bennett, Accessibility Coordinator**